

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 4-9 as follows:

4. (Amended) Use as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the propionic bacteria belong to strains having properties of adhesion on the colonocytes.

5. (Amended) Use as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the composition consists of a dry or hydrated preparation presented in the form of individual fractions of approximately 100 mg to 1 g, preferably from 200 to 500 mg, preferably containing at least  $10^8$  cells.

6. (Amended) Use as claimed in Claim 5, characterized in that the composition is presented in the form of gastroresistant capsules.

7. (Amended) Use as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the composition consists of a formulated preparation, the propionic bacteria being added to or associated with a fermentable substrate, notably dietary fibers.

8. (Amended) Use as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the composition consists of a formulated preparation, the propionic bacteria being added to or incorporated into liquid, paste or solid foods.

9. (Amended) Use as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the composition contains lactic bacteria and/or bifid bacteria.